Concept: What is the difference between 姓 (xing) and 名字 (mingzi)?

Mingzi名字 xing 姓

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Meaning: Full name | Meaning: Surname |
| 名ming- meaning-name- radical-口 | 女 nu- meaning- female- radical-女 |
| 字 zi- meaning- character- radical-宀 | 生 sheng- meaning- grow- radical- 生 |
| Stroke Count- 12 | Stroke Count- 8 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 你叫什么名字? | | | | | 请问您贵? | | | | |
| 你 | 叫 | 什么 | 名字 | ? | 请 | 问 | 您 | 贵 | 姓? |
| Ni | Jiao | Shenme | Mingzi | ? | Qing | Wen | Nin | Gui | Xing? |
| You | Called | What | Name | ? | Please | Ask | What | Honorable | name |
| What is your full name? | | | | | May I ask your honorable surname? | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ANSWER | | | ANSWER | | |
| 我叫 (your name) | | | 我 姓(your sur-name) | | |
| 我 | 叫 | (your name) | 我 | 姓 | (your sur-name) |
| I | Am | (your name) | I | Am | (your sur-name) |
| I | Am | (your name) | I | Am | (your sur-name) |
| In both answers 我(wo) is added in front of the verb, and your name is added after it. | | | | | |

Why is there two different ways to ask a person their name?

Culture Alert: In Chinese culture people are addressed by their whole name.